



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims and add new Claims 37 and 38 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device, said method implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device comprising the steps of:

- obtaining (504) a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user;
- determining (506) user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user;
- obtaining a peripheral device identification data item from said request;
- determining (508), as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral device identification data item obtained, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the determining step further comprises a limiting step of limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user; and
- sending (516) the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device identification data item is extracted (504) from the request sent by a client station to the server station, the request being a document processing request or a request to obtain a configuration profile.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to Claims 3 and 36, wherein said steps of determining user characteristics and determining a configuration profile are accomplished by means of a database (44, 46) in which there are stored, associated together, peripheral device data each representing an identity of a peripheral, user data representing user characteristics, and configuration data each representing a configuration profile.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- if required by the client station, updating (604, 606) a configuration of the peripheral device in a context of the configuration profile applicable.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 5, wherein said configuration updating step includes:

- receiving (500) from the client station a request for obtaining the configuration profile applicable;

- determining and sending (508, 516) to the client station the configuration profile applicable; and

- receiving (600) from the client station the configuration profile applicable with a parameter having a modified value.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the user identification data item is a chain of characters identifying a user and a password entered by the user in order to connect the user to the client station.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the user characteristics indicate a level of service subscribed to by a user.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein a level of service subscribed to by a user is defined according to a financial sum paid by the user.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device identification data item is a network address of the peripheral.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the configuration data each represent a configuration profile indicate an electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the network is an Internet.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the client station and the server station communicate using an HTTP protocol.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the electronic address of a computer object containing a configuration profile is an address of a uniform resource locator (URL) type, and the computer object is an object defined in an annotation language of an extended mark-up language (XML) type.

15. (Currently amended) A method of obtaining a configuration profile determined according to a method as defined in Claim 1, comprising the following steps implemented in a client station:

- generating and sending (400-410) to the server station a request to configure an electronic document processing peripheral device, the request including a user identification data item and a peripheral device identification data item; and

- receiving (412, 414) a configuration profile of the peripheral device from the server station, in response to the configuration request.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- displaying (416) the configuration profile; and

- modifying (420, 422) a current configuration associated with the configuration profile.

17. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, in which the peripheral device configuration uses a peripheral device driver, further comprising the step of, when the peripheral device driver is stored in the server station:

- sending (434) to the server station the configuration profile containing the modified configuration.

18. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 16, in which the configuration of the peripheral device uses a peripheral driver, further comprising the step of, when the peripheral device driver is locally stored in the client station:

- using (426) the configuration profile for configuring the peripheral device driver.

19. (Currently amended) A method of configuring an electronic document processing peripheral device, said method comprising determining a configuration profile in accordance with Claim 1.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed

values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user;
- means for obtaining a peripheral device identification data item;
- first determining means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user;
- second determining means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the first determining means further comprises a limiting means for limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user; and
- means for sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters for the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters

defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item;
- means for obtaining a peripheral device identification data item;
- first determining means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a

function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of services associated with the user;

- second determining means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the peripheral device;

- means for obtaining (504) a peripheral device identification data item, such that a configuration profile applicable is determined (508) as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item; and

????? - means for determining a configuration profile; and[[.]]

- means for sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user,

wherein the user identification data item and the peripheral device identification data item are extracted (504) from a request sent by a client station operated by the user to a server station, the request being a document processing request or a request to obtain a configuration profile.

24 to 25. (Canceled)



26. (Currently amended) A device for configuring an electronic document processing peripheral device, wherein said device includes a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device, said device for determining a configuration profile comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user;

- means for obtaining a peripheral device identification data item;

- first determining means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user;

- second determining means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the first determining means further comprises limiting means for limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user; and

- means for sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A server station connected to a communication network, said server station comprising a device for determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral device, said device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user;

- means for obtaining a peripheral device identification data item;

- first determining means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user;

- second determining means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user, wherein the first determining means further comprises limiting means for limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user, and

- means for sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A communication network comprising:

- at least one processing peripheral device;
- a server station; and
- a client station,

wherein said server station includes a device for determining a configuration profile for the electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters;[[.]]

defining an operation mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device, the device comprising:

- means (42) for obtaining a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user;[[.]]

- means for obtaining a peripheral device identification data item;

- first determining means (42, 46) for determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, the user characteristics comprising a level of service associated with said user;[[.]] and

- second determining means (42, 44, 46) for determining, as a function of the user characteristics and the peripheral device identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral device for a document processing request coming from said user and means for sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user, wherein the first determining means further comprises

limiting means for limiting the possible values of certain configuration parameters of the peripheral device as a function of the level of service associated with the user.

[[and]] wherein said client station includes a device for obtaining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral device, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral device, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral device,

said device comprising:

- means (36) for generating and sending to the server station a request for configuration of an electronic document processing peripheral device, the request containing a user identification data item and a peripheral device identification data item; and
- means (38) for receiving a configuration profile of the peripheral device from the server station, in response to the request for configuration.

31 to 35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral device identification data item is extracted (504) from the request sent by a client station to the server station, the request being a request to obtain a configuration profile.

37. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein a number of possible values of configuration parameters of the peripheral device contained in the determined configuration profile depends on the level of service associated with the user.

38. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the highest level of service is associated to a configuration profile including all possible values of all configuration parameters.